

**Security Council**

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Letter dated 10 December 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On 12 November 2001 the Permanent Representative of Kuwait to the United Nations addressed to you a letter (S/2001/1070) in which he alleges that Iraq had fired a projectile into Kuwaiti territory. In his letter, the Permanent Representative of Kuwait also claims that the relevant Kuwaiti team met with the members of a team from the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM) and that it was determined that the projectile was a Russian-made 82-mm mortar round.

These allegations, which, according to the Permanent Representative of Kuwait, involved an incident that "once again illustrates the intentions of the Iraqi Government with regard to the people and Government of Kuwait and the fact that these intentions are other than peaceful", were quickly proved to be false when UNIKOM issued a press statement on 20 November 2001. It concluded that:

"... the crater found on the Kuwaiti side of the demilitarized zone could have resulted from a 57-mm anti-aircraft round fired against planes violating the airspace of Iraq and the demilitarized zone and not from an 82-mm mortar round as was initially thought."

The allegation made in the Kuwaiti letter that has been proved to be false by the UNIKOM observers is one more example that clearly illustrates the hostile, provocative and inflammatory practices in which the Kuwaiti Government has been engaging against Iraq since 1990 in order to promote the bellicose objectives of the United States and the United Kingdom, which are seeking to maintain the aggression and the embargo against Iraq and to perpetuate instability in the region.

We had hoped that Kuwaiti officials might have learned a lesson from past experience, which has shown that the policies of fabricating crises, of alarmism, provocation and incitement against Iraq and of ignoring the facts of history and geography cannot bring anyone increased security. Even after this incident, we continue to hope that Kuwaiti politicians will take heed and that they will desist from accusing Iraq on false grounds and from allowing their wealth and their territory to be used for the daily United States and British aggression against it.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mohammed A. Aldouri
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

